



**Belmont Human Rights Commission  
Belmont Town Hall  
February 4, 2010**

**Meeting Notes**

Members Present: Lisa Bernt, Nan Donald, Chuck Laverty, Laura Panos, Paul Solomon, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan

Members Absent: Carl Brauer, Julie Cicalese,

Liaisons Present: Kathryn Bonfiglio (Belmont Against Racism), Captain Peter Hoerr (Belmont Police Department); Dan Richards (Belmont High School)

Meeting convened at 7:10 pm.

Fran Yuan took notes. A quorum was present. Lisa Bernt presided.

- The January minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
  - Lisa reported on the telephone line; there were no messages.
- 2 Dan Richards updated us on Diversity Week from February 22-26 at the high school. He gave us each a schedule of events and invited us to attend any of the sessions that interested us. He said they are going for more depth than breadth this year. Dan will email Fran a schedule with times listed and Fran will email to members.

Dan also invited any HRC members to join the planning group for future Diversity weeks. This year the group included Dan, Kris Comment, and Tracy Santiago. They are especially looking for ways to connect with new individuals or groups to offer presentations during the week..

Lisa brought up inviting the MCAD next year to talk about what they do.

- Laura reported that she filled out a membership form for the HRC at the Media Center and the fee was waived. They will put a very short blurb about the HRC on their TV bulletin.
- 6 Laura has not yet arranged a date to do a presentation at the Senior Center.
- d Fran reminded members to complete the ethics training on line by our March meeting.
- e Fran proposed that we write a letter to the Belmont Citizen Herald urging Belmont residents to complete the Census forms. It was mentioned that the League of Women Voters would also be writing a letter and it was suggested that we get in touch with them.
- 8 Fran said she went through all of the ideas that were brought up during this past year's meetings. She mentioned our intent to develop an FAQ sheet. There was discussion about putting a request for questions in the Belmont Citizen Herald. It was agreed that Fran would send a draft of such a request to members for their comment. What issues do citizens have about the HRC or issues related to discrimination?
- 9 HRC-sponsored activities were discussed. Grants are available from BAR. We can take donations as we have a special fund into which we can receive them.
- g** Kathryn brought up the issue of bullying and the possibility of offering another co-sponsored workshop for parents. Kathryn asked Peter if the police department had knowledge of cyber-bullying in Belmont. He explained the right to privacy issues that sometimes make it difficult to get access to email content. The state law has been changed so that with a subpoena, the ISP, customer name and email address can be identified but not the content of emails. To enable an investigation, the police must get a search warrant to get access to the content of emails.
- g** Lisa mentioned that new state law requires that most entities that collect or maintain "Personal Information" (e.g., social security numbers, driver's license numbers, financial information) about a Massachusetts resident must keep such data secure, and take appropriate measures in event of a breach. The law requires that such entities develop and maintain a written, comprehensive Information Security Program, including computer system security requirements. Regulations are at 201 CMR 17:00.
- John, a resident participant, mentioned that the white population is 66% nationwide at present but that it will be less than 50% soon. The minorities are shifting.
  - Paul asked if we should invite Sandy Thompson of Winchester Multicultural Network to talk about their activities to give us some ideas. It was agreed that he would invite her to our March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.